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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method of treating a patient suffering from an amyloid disease comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which binds to free amyloid-beta in a body fluid of the patient.
- The method of claim 1, wherein a binding complex is formed between the
 compound and Aβ.
 - 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the body fluid is blood.
 - 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the complex is excreted from the patient.
 - 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the amyloid disease is Alzheimer's disease.
 - 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered systemically.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein between about 1 mg and about 100 mg of the compound is administered per kg body weight of the patient and per day.
 - 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from apolipoprotein E, apolipoprotein J, serum amyloid P component, RNA aptamers directed against amyloid beta, αl-antichymotrypsin, a proteoglycan, a ganglioside, vimentin, vitronectin, albumin, transthyretin, an amyloid-beta-binding fragment thereof, and combinations thereof.
- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the apolipoprotein E is selected from apolipoprotein E2, apolipoprotein E3 or apolipoprotein E4.
 - 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said compound or fragment thereof is a mimetic of said compound or fragments thereof.

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- 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the proteoglycan is a heparan sulfate proteoglycan.
- The method of claim 8, wherein the ganglioside is selected from monosiologanglioside GM1, monosiologanglioside GM2, monosiologanglioside GM3, disialoganglioside GD1a, disialoganglioside GD1b, trisialoganglioside GT1b, and a mixture thereof.
- 10 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is an antibody or antibody fragment which binds to amyloid-beta.
 - 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the blood-brain-barrier is permeabilized prior to administration of the compound.
 - 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the blood-brain-barrier is permeabilized by administering insulin growth factor I (IGF-I).
- A method of treating an amyloid disease in a patient in need of such treatment comprising filtering the blood of the patient through a filter, membrane or column, thereby removing circulating amyloid-beta from the patient.
 - 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the filtered blood is returned to said patient.
- 25 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the amyloid disease is Alzheimer's disease.
 - 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the membrane or filter has a cut-off weight of about 20 kD.
- 30 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the membrane, filter or column comprises a compound which is bound or conjugated to the membrane, filter, or column and which binds to amyloid-beta.

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21. The method of claim 20, wherein the compound is selected from apolipoprotein E, apolipoprotein J, serum amyloid P component, a RNA aptamer directed against $A\beta$, α 1- antichymotrypsin, a proteoglycan, a ganglioside, vimentin, vitronectin, albumin, transthyretin, amyloid-beta-binding fragments thereof, and combinations thereof.

- 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the apolipoprotein E is selected from apolipoprotein E2, apolipoprotein E3 and apolipoprotein E4.
- The method of claim 21, wherein said compound or fragment thereof is a mimetic of said compound or fragments thereof.

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- 24. The method of claim 21, wherein the proteoglycan is a heparan sulfate proteoglycan.
- 25. The method of claim 21 wherein the ganglioside is selected from monosiologanglioside GM1, monosiologanglioside GM2, monosiologanglioside GM3, disialoganglioside GD1a, disialoganglioside GD1b, trisialoganglioside GT1b, and combinations thereof.
- 26. The method of claim 20, wherein the compound is an antibody or antibody fragment which binds to amyloid-beta.
- The method according to claim 16 wherein the method of filtering the blood of said patient is selected from hemodialysis, plasma perfusion and hemofiltration.